

Appl. No. 10/007,543
Amdt. dated 12/6/05
Reply to Office Action of 11/15/05

PATENT
Docket: 010396

REMARKS

Claims 2-18 and 22-26 are pending in the present application. In the above amendments, claims 4, 6, 8 and 22-24 have been amended, and claims 1 and 19-21 have been canceled. Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, which prompt and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims 2, 3, 5, 7 and 9-18

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 2, 3, 5, 7 and 9-18.

Objected to Claims 6 and 22-26

Claims 6 and 22-26 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended independent claim 4 to include the allowed limitation of claim 6. In addition, previously presented claim 6 was amended to depend from allowed claim 5. Allowable claims 22-24 have been rewritten independent form to include the limitation of independent claim 21. Claims 25 and 26 depend from rewritten allowed claim 24. Accordingly, the objected claims should now all be allowable.

Rejection of Claim 21 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1, 4, 8, and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Brown *et al* (U.S. Patent No. 6,650,694). This rejection has been obviated in view of the cancellation herein of claims 1 and 19-21, and the further amendments to claims 4 and 8 appearing above in which these claims are now presented in allowable form. Accordingly, the §102(e) rejection should be withdrawn.

Designation of Figure for Publication

Applicant requests that at the time of publication of the subject application for patent that the Examiner designate Figure 5 as the best representative drawing of the claimed invention. --

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CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 12/6/05

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